LETTERS FROM VIETNAM . . .

THANKFUL FOR LETTERS

Since this is our Thanksgiving issue, we want you all to know how thankful we are for your many wonderful letters. Our hardest task is to choose the ones for "WE CARE". We'd like to print all of your letters and wish we could.

"WE CARE"—BRIGHTENS BATTERED IMPRESSIONS

Dear Mothers of Servicemen,

I have received cookies from you before but I've been eating C-Rations for over a month now and a can of cookies would be worth their weight in gold.

I also receive your paper "We Care". It always seems to come when I haven't had any mail for several days and it really seems to brighten battered impressions of happenings back home. Thank you so very much for your dedication to the men in Vietnam.

Your Marine in Nam, Doug

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MOM'S APPLE PIE

Dear Ladies,

I recently read your note in the USO at Qui Nhon. I don't think anything would taste better right now than a few home baked cookies (except Mom's apple pie).

Keep up the good work on a very worthwhile project. It's very much appreciated.

Thank you! Sgt. Rosenbauer

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FIGHTING TO PRESERVE FREEDOM

Dear Mothers,

I have received two packages so far for which I am most grateful. The cookies were most delicious and were enjoyed by my entire squad. I have received several copies of WE CARE. I enjoy reading it very much. It is encouraging to those of us who are fighting to preserve freedom.

It is great to know that there are those, besides our family and close friends, who really care and try to help make our tour over here a little easier.

I want to thank you for the job you are doing and may God bless you all.

Andy Beard

* * *

DREW STRAWS

Mothers of Servicemen,

Recently a friend of mine found your address. He told us that if we wrote to you that we would receive some cookies. This excited everybody, because an opportunity to get something from the States is very seldom passed up. Especially by my group of friends.

So everyone was going to write. But a few of the guys said they felt funny about writing and asking for cookies. Well as it turned out, we drew straws and I was elected to send one letter in everyones behalf.

We really feel good when we see groups like the MOTHERS OF SERVICEMEN because then we know that we're not really alone over here. It helps the morale of the Soldiers even if they don't respond with a letter.

(five signed this letter)

* * *

QUOTES FROM SEVERAL LETTERS

"I've always been concerned about our Pledge of Allegiance—it means a lot to me—and also it's important to begin a day as in a classroom first thing every morning. Especially the meaning. I certainly hope it's never taken from the schools. I'll do all I can to prevent that, as I'm doing now. I care, too, as you do!"

* * *

"Your newsletter gave us some idea of the many people in "The world" who understand the hardships of this war that we must face by not being allowed to win and return home. Your efforts are truly appreciated."

* * *

"I never thought that there could ever be a wonderful group of women such as the group that you stand for. I also have a wonderful mother of my own back home in Georgia."

* * *

"Our conception of your cookies is one big joyous moment."

* * *

"I want you to know if there is anything I could do to help in any way to show the rest of the people what Vietnam is really like and *why* we are over here, I will be very glad to do so or try."

* * *

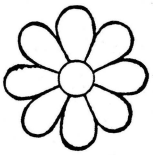
"Your letters and packages, as they say over here, are number one."

* * *

"I've been here for the past 6 months and am proud of being a part of our fighting force."

Lt. Gen. James Doolittle, USAF (ret.), with HN Timothy Rabun and former SP/4 Mark Sutherland who posted the colors for a dinner sponsored by ABMAC (The American Bureau for Medical Aid to (Free) China).

"FLOWER POWER" A SICK SYMBOL



The flower symbol is seen everywhere — on compact cars, doors and windows of residences, and on mail boxes. Sold widely as stickers and decals, they have become very popular. There are those who don't care for these flower decals because they associate them with the Hippie movement. However, they're decorative and add a bit of gaiety to our otherwise drab existence. Such is the popular reaction to this little symbol.

Sometimes it pays to dig a little deeper. Any Hippie will tell you these flowers are the symbol of his movement; that they represent "FLOWER POWER". And what is "FLOWER POWER"? That's where the Hippie Movement gets its power; from the poppy. Even more specifically, from the poppy-produced derivative known as heroin, the use of which has resulted in degradation and death for an unknown number of youngsters.

Comparison of the above symbol with this illustrated opium poppy clearly reveals the origin of the "FLOWER POWER" ornament. (From The Independent American, Feb.-March, 1969.)

"MOTHERS OF SERVICEMEN" SALUTES

HOLLYWOOD USO CLUB. These young ladies mass produce cookies for servicemen overseas. They "cushion" them with popcorn, bubble gum and enveloped fruit-flavored drinks.

* * *

MARINE SGT. RONALD BURTON of Galion, Ohio who has already earned 6 Purple Heart, a Silver Star and a Bronze Star. He commented, "When I went home and saw a picture in my hometown newspaper of those protesters sitting on the Flag, I decided that I was going back."

* * *

MISS HELEN DOBSON AND MISS MARY MOWERY for distributing more than half a million copies of the Serviceman's Prayer. For your copy send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Service Prayer, 2936 Bremen St., Columbus, Ohio.

* * *

MISS SUSAN BUTCHKO of Glendale, California, for her diligence in corresponding with servicemen all over the world.

* * *

THE EXCHANGE CLUB of Altadena, California for their wisdom in presenting the Big M Mass Media Award to commentators George Putnam of KTTV and Marv Gray of KABC "in recogni-

Continued on Page 4

"Mother's Memorial Day" was 20,000 items - and she was 86 at the time. M.S.

"Mothers of Servicemen" Salutes

Continued from Page 3

tion of their outstanding efforts in upholding the principles of America and its way of life".

* * *

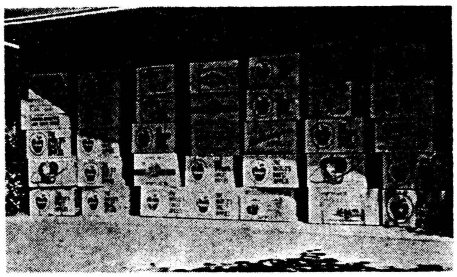
GREAT GREAT GRANDMA NEILL of Altadena, California who has been busy sending thousands of book marks and pictures (pasted on cottage cheese

lids, orange juice lids, etc.). She is now working on Christmas tree ornaments to go to Vietnam with our little Christmas trees.

* * *

SISTER MARY BENEDICT, the physician and surgeon in charge of the Holy Family Hospital in Qui Nhon, Vietnam. In a recent talk during her worldwide tour, she scrapped the "nonsense about napalm causing widespread burns". Most of the publicized burns were due to "home accidents, such as exploding kerosene stoves and lamps," she said. She further commented, "The news from Vietnam is not being reported correctly in this country." (We couldn't agree more! That's one of the reasons we started publishing "WE CARE" two years ago. Ed.)

* * *



Mr. and Mrs. George Theobald shipped these sturdy apple boxes filled with clothing, toys, games and food to Vietnam to be given out by the GI's to the orphanages and hospitals. They have been doing this for 15 years—starting in Korea.

WE CARE DEDICATED

For the third year in a row, the national organization of MOTHERS OF SERVICEMEN is mailing Christmas trees to the servicemen in Vietnam. This year we wanted to share the joy of sending these trees with our many friends throughout the United States. And so we sent out thousands of messages asking for help with AIRLIFT-CHRISTMAS TREE. The result—500 trees will be sent to hospitals and servicemen in Vietnam.

Following are some of the quotes from an enthusiastic response:

"Thanks so much for letting me in on this. What a wonderful job you are doing!! If you could send me your address in Pasadena I'd love to come over and help."

Mrs. Charlotte R., Burbank, Calif.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity of sending a Christmas tree to a serviceman in Vietnam. Would you please send me one or two more Christmas messages to pass along."

Mrs. L.V.H., Dallas, Texas

"I am enclosing a check from Mary K. who is at present in the hospital. She thinks, as we all do, that this is a wonderful idea for our much neglected soldiers. I am enclosing an air mail stamp. Would you please send me another letter with the Christmas message so I, too, can send a donation."

Mrs. Ursula G., Woodside, N.Y.

"I have just read the Christmas enclosure in your letter which is both beautiful and impressive. I consider it a privilege to be included in your Christmas plans and I wish I were there to be of personal help in your heartfelt undertaking."

Mrs. James S. W., Springfield, Ohio

"God bless you and yours as you continue to occupy for Him until He comes.

Carl H.S., Auburn, N.Y.

"Before my son went to Vietnam, the one thing he asked us to send him was a Christmas tree.

Rosemary J., Gardena, Calif.

We just had to include this letter in its entirety:

"I would just like to share a word with you to let you know how much your efforts toward making our soldiers happy at Christmas time means to one of them.

"My fiance, Cpl. Henry T. Sharp, was in the Third Marine Division fighting in Vietnam last Christmas. I sent you his mailing address and he received your publications and a box of cookies. It meant so much to him and the other guys with whom he shared his packages, to know that I wasn't the only one who cared about him over there.

"Henry is home now, after doing twelve months overseas duty. He is still talking about his experiences there, and the times he received "goodies" from the MOTHERS OF SERVICEMEN.

"I am sending this small donation, hoping that some other soldier will know that God cares, because His people care."

God bless you all,
Brenda G., Altadena, Calif.

These touching messages coming in steadily make us feel we are a link between the vast majority of patriotic Americans supporting the servicemen and our men in Vietnam.

From these letters you can see WHY we feel it is so important to send the Christmas trees. It is a reminder to our sons of the homes they remember. Some of their dearest memories are of former Christmases celebrated back here in the "world"—the giving of gifts, making ornaments, decorating Christmas trees and singing Christmas carols.

1 Lt. Cordell Burch spent Christmas, 1968 in the field. The only reminder of that blessed day was the small tree on the bunker.

So to you wonderfully generous and kind members, relatives and friends who have made AIRLIFT-CHRISTMAS TREE possible, we say a grateful THANK YOU as we humbly dedicate this issue of our newspaper to you all. Because by your depth of understanding in our "cause", you have so ringingly joined with us in saying—"WE CARE"!

Sincerely, Mary Sutherland, Editor

(Mother of a son back home for his second Christmas.)

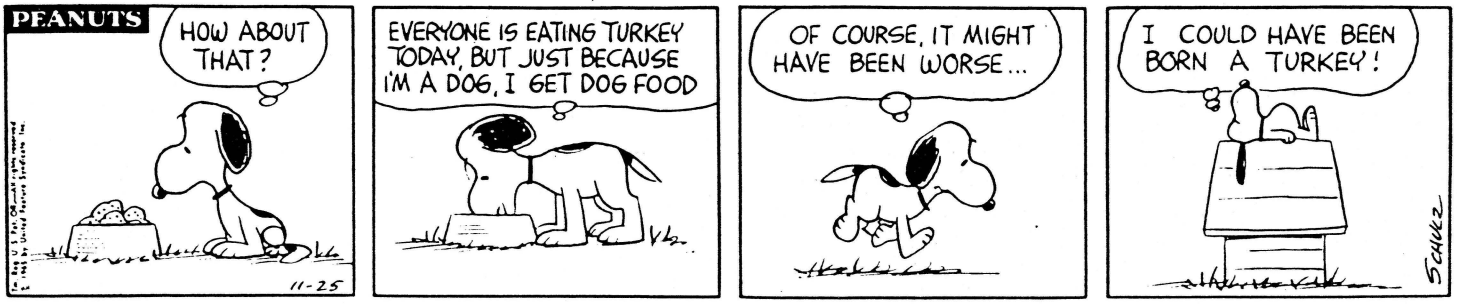
THANKFUL HEART

We thank Thee, Lord, this hallowed day
For these Thy gifts. Thanks for the way
The falling leaves renew the earth—
Symbol and promise of man's rebirth.

Thanks for the fruits of field and plow
We planted then and harvest now.
Thanks for the sea and summer shade . . .
Beauty of sky and silent glade . . .

Thy watchful eye, as children played.
Thanks for Thy trials that somehow made
Us more like men. O Lord, for these
We thank Thee, then on grateful knees.

William Fitzpatrick



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